

- 1           1.    A method comprising:  
2                   determining if there is a pending demand request  
3           to a cached disk subsystem and, if not, executing a non-  
4           demand request.
- 1           2.    The method of claim 1 including queuing requests  
2           including demand requests, requests to write from the cache  
3           back to a disk drive, and requests to flush the cache.
- 1           3.    The method of claim 2 wherein if the next request  
2           is a non-demand request, executing said non-demand request  
3           and monitoring for a demand request.
- 1           4.    The method of claim 3 including preempting the  
2           execution of the non-demand request after receiving a  
3           demand request and executing the demand request before  
4           completing the non-demand request.
- 1           5.    The method of claim 4 including re-queuing said  
2           non-demand request for execution after the completion of  
3           the demand request.
- 1           6.    The method of claim 1 including determining  
2           whether the cache is idle before executing a write back  
3           request.

1        7.    The method of claim 1 including interrupting a  
2 write back request during its execution after receiving a  
3 demand request.

1        8.    The method of claim 1 including executing cache  
2 flush operations when a pending write back request has been  
3 received.

1        9.    The method of claim 1 including executing a  
2 driver generated non-demand write back request.

1        10.   An article comprising a medium storing  
2 instructions that, if executed, enable a processor-based  
3 system to:  
4            determine if there is a pending demand request to  
5 a cached disk subsystem and, if not, execute a non-demand  
6 request.

1        11.   The article of claim 10 further storing  
2 instructions that, if executed, enable the processor-based  
3 system to queue requests including demand requests,  
4 requests to write from the cache back to a disk drive, and  
5 requests to flush the cache.

1        12. The article of claim 11 further storing  
2 instructions that, if executed, enable the processor-based  
3 system to execute said non-demand request and monitor for a  
4 demand request.

1        13. The article of claim 12 further storing  
2 instructions that, if executed, enable the processor-based  
3 system to interrupt the execution of the non-demand request  
4 after receiving a demand request and execute the demand  
5 request before completing the non-demand request.

1        14. The article of claim 13 further storing  
2 instructions that, if executed, enable the processor-based  
3 system to re-queue said non-demand request for execution  
4 after the completion of the demand request.

1        15. The article of claim 10 further storing  
2 instructions that, if executed, enable the processor-based  
3 system to determine whether the cached disk subsystem is  
4 idle before executing a non-demand request.

1        16. The article of claim 10 further storing  
2 instructions that, if executed, enable the processor-based  
3 system to interrupt the execution of a non-demand request  
4 after receiving a demand request.

1        17. The article of claim 10 further storing  
2 instructions that, if executed, enable the processor-based  
3 system to execute cache flush instructions when a pending  
4 write back request has been received.

1        18. A system comprising:  
2            a cache;  
3            a disk drive coupled to said cache; and  
4            a controller to determine if there is a pending  
5 demand request to a cached disk subsystem and, if not,  
6 implement a non-demand request.

1        19. The system of claim 18, said controller to queue  
2 requests including demand requests, requests to write from  
3 the cache back to the disk drive, and requests to flush the  
4 cache.

1        20. The system of claim 19, said controller to  
2 execute a non-demand request and monitor for a demand  
3 request.

1        21. The system of claim 20, said controller to  
2 interrupt the execution of a non-demand request after  
3 receiving a demand request and execute the demand request  
4 before completing the non-demand request.

1        22. The system of claim 21, said controller to re-  
2 queue said non-demand request after a completion of the  
3 demand request.

1        23. The system of claim 18, said controller to  
2 determine whether the cached disk subsystem is idle before  
3 executing a non-demand request.

1        24. The system of claim 18, said controller to  
2 interrupt the execution of a non-demand request after  
3 receiving a demand request.

1        25. The system of claim 18, said controller to  
2 execute cache flush instructions when a pending write back  
3 request has been received.